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Letter dated 9 July 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of the Republic of Guinea, March 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Boubacar **Diallo**
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Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Guinea (March 2003)

Introduction

March 2003 will be recorded in the annals of the Security Council as an especially busy and difficult month because of the many matters on its agenda and the political and legal implications of the Iraq question.

During that month, the Council held 18 consultations, seven of which were on Iraq, six public meetings, including three on Iraq, and two closed meetings with troop-contributing countries.

Despite the exceptional amount of attention given to the Iraq question, Africa, as usual, was not put aside. Consultations were held on Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Western Sahara, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

The Council also held three formal meetings to adopt resolutions on UNMEE on 14 March, MINURSO on 25 March, UNAMSIL, UNAMA and the humanitarian situation in Iraq on 28 March.

On that date, it also approved the reply of the President of the Council to the letter of the Secretary-General concerning the candidacies for *ad litem* judges at the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

In addition, the Council held monthly briefings, followed by consultations, on the situation in the Middle East and in Afghanistan.

Aside from the Iraq question, the focal point of the Guinean presidency was the workshop on 18 March on the topic "Proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities: threats to peace and security in West Africa".

During the month of March, the Council adopted seven resolutions and one presidential statement, and the President was authorized to deliver seven statements to the press.

The Guinean presidency was conducted in full transparency. Briefings for the States non-members of the Council were held following informal consultations, the programme of work was updated regularly, and statements to the press were posted on the web site of the presidency.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 and 28 March, the Council considered the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the humanitarian and security situation.

The Council heard a communication from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chairman of the Monitoring Committee, Mr. Albert Tevoedjre.

It adopted two statements to the press (see appendix).

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 11 March, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/257) of 6 March 2003.

The Special Representative described the activities of UNMEE, with particular reference to its assistance to the Boundary Commission demarcating the border between the two countries, mine clearance and the humanitarian situation.

Council members stressed the importance of the border demarcation phase to the peace process and therefore invited the parties to take into account the related decisions. They paid a warm tribute to the Mission for its efforts to restore peace and endorsed the extension of the mandate of UNMEE, which had been the subject of resolution 1466 (2003), adopted unanimously on 14 March.

Guinea-Bissau

The Council considered the situation in Guinea-Bissau on 5 March, following a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. David Stephen.

The Council expressed its concern at the political and economic situation in the country. It requested the Government to take appropriate measures to create favourable conditions for the holding of free, credible and transparent elections. It launched an appeal to the donor community to provide financial assistance to Guinea-Bissau. The Council adopted a statement to the press (see appendix).

Liberia

Also on 5 March, the Council examined the situation in Liberia, on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/227), which noted the persistence of combat between the Government forces and LURD, and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. It adopted a statement to the press (see appendix).

Central African Republic

On 20 March, the Council considered the situation in the Central African Republic and condemned the coup d'état perpetrated by General Bozizé. It adopted a statement to the press (see appendix) in which it reiterated its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the action of BONUCA.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Council also considered the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 20 March, in particular the eastern part of the country, in Ituri, and in South Kivu where violent clashes had taken place, giving rise to a serious humanitarian situation. The Council adopted resolution 1468 (2003), focusing especially on respect for human rights and humanitarian law, and granted a three-month extension until June 2003 to the parties mentioned in the report of the Panel

of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (S/2002/1146), to enable them to present the information requested.

Western Sahara

On 25 March, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hédi Annabi, concerning the letter dated 19 March (S/2003/341) in which the Secretary-General proposed that the consideration of the situation in Western Sahara should be postponed until 19 May 2003, in order to give all the parties the time necessary to submit their responses to the proposal entitled "Peace plan for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara", presented to them by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy.

Council members supported the request of the Secretary-General and at the same time took the opportunity to recall that all prisoners of war still being detained should be released without further delay, in accordance with international humanitarian law.

On 25 March, Council members unanimously adopted resolution 1469 (2003) concerning the extension of the mandate of MINURSO for a period of two months, until 31 May 2003, and requesting the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation on 19 May 2003.

Sierra Leone

On 21 March, the Council considered the situation in Sierra Leone on the basis of the seventeenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) dealing with the timetable for troop withdrawal and the evaluation of the security and humanitarian situation and other aspects (S/2003/321 and Corr.1). The Council adopted a statement to the press (see appendix), followed by resolution 1470 (2003) of 28 March, which renewed the mandate of UNAMSIL for six additional months.

Somalia

On 12 March, the Security Council heard the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/231) of 26 February 2003 by the Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Winston Tubman.

The members of the Council thanked the Representative of the Secretary-General for his report and reaffirmed their support for efforts aimed at arriving at a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia. They welcomed, in this regard, the significant progress made in the first phase of the Eldoret (Kenya) process of national reconciliation. However, they expressed their grave concern at the repeated violations of the commitments made in the context of this process, which had brought about a deterioration in the already precarious security climate and the degradation of the humanitarian situation. The Council also noted with concern the continued flow of weapons and ammunition in Somalia and called on all States and actors to observe the arms embargo.

The members of the Council unanimously adopted the related presidential statement (S/PRST/2003/2).

Asia

Afghanistan

On 17 March, the Council heard the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/333).

The Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council on the progress made in implementing the Bonn Agreement, the challenges to be faced and the role that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) should play in this context. He stressed in particular the need to pursue administrative and institutional reforms, consolidate the progress achieved in the areas of security and justice and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, along with increased support from the international community.

During the consultations which followed, the members of the Council recognized the significant progress made in the implementation of the Bonn Agreement, whose timetable had for the most part been observed. While expressing their concern at the climate of increasing insecurity prevailing in Afghanistan, they emphasized the need to ensure rapid and thorough reform of the security services and expansion of the fight against poppy production and trafficking. They expressed their full support for the constitutional and electoral processes under way. They endorsed the renewal of the mandate of UNAMA for a 12-month period, which was the subject of resolution 1471 (2003) of 28 March.

Bougainville

On 28 March, during a public meeting in which many delegations took part, Council members heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Danilo Türk, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (S/2003/345).

The Council members welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the agreement on the peace, security and development of Bougainville. They rejected the idea that a single party could hijack the peace process and expressed the wish that the process could be completed as scheduled.

Iraq

On 7 March, the members of the Security Council met for informal consultations, after previously hearing Mr. Hans Blix and Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, respectively, who introduced their report on the proposed inspections at a public meeting at the ministerial level (12 Foreign Ministers were present).

Council members listened with great interest to the replies of the chief inspectors to their questions, before giving their reactions. In the light of these responses, some delegations believed that Iraq was in violation of its obligations under resolution 1441 (2002), given that it was not fully and actively cooperating with UNMOVIC and IAEA. In the view of those delegations, the use of force, provided for in the relevant Council resolutions, had become inevitable in order to

achieve the complete disarmament of Iraq. Others believed that this objective could be attained through other means, more specifically by means of inspections which, in their view, had already produced results despite inadequate cooperation from Iraq. In their opinion, the Council should envisage the use of force only as a last resort, after having exhausted all other possibilities.

Council members took note of the amendment made by the delegations of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Spain to the draft resolution they had submitted on 24 February.

At the consultations on 10 March, the members of the Council exchanged views on the Anglo-American-Spanish draft resolution; the sponsors responded to questions on the draft.

Council members also raised specific questions for the inspectors with Mr. Blix, who indicated, in particular, that he intended to present to the Council, before 27 March, the programme of work of UNMOVIC and the list of key disarmament tasks still to be accomplished before that date.

On 11 and 12 March, the Security Council, at the request of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held a public meeting in which 53 delegations participated. Many of the speakers called for a peaceful solution to the crisis but also called on Iraq to cooperate fully, actively and without conditions with the disarmament inspectors, in accordance with resolution 1441 (2002). Some believed that the time had come for the Council to impose on Iraq the "serious consequences" provided for in resolution 1441 (2002), given its refusal to cooperate effectively with UNMOVIC and IAEA.

During the consultations on 12 and 13 March, Council members considered a proposal from the United Kingdom delegation, which did not receive the necessary consensus for the Council to adopt a unanimous position on the appropriateness of continuing the inspections.

On 17 and 18 March, the members of the Council met in private to take note of the Secretary-General's decision to suspend the work of United Nations humanitarian personnel in Iraq for security reasons and to transmit to the Council as soon as possible his proposals on ways of meeting the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people (see the note of the President of the Security Council of 18 March (S/2003/377)).

On 19 March, the Council held a public meeting at the ministerial level (five ministers present), during which it took note of the programme of work of UNMOVIC and IAEA for the disarmament of Iraq, as submitted by Mr. Blix and the representative of the Director General of IAEA.

The members of the Council took the opportunity to pay a glowing tribute to the inspectors for their efforts to implement the inspection regime provided in Council resolutions. Furthermore, they regretted the fact that they had not been able to find a common approach to avoid war in Iraq. Some saw the lack of agreement as the result of Iraq's refusal to cooperate with the United Nations disarmament inspectors, while others felt that the Council should have given UNMOVIC and IAEA more time to complete their mandate.

During a closed meeting on 21 March, Council members considered the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning appropriate measures to address the urgent humanitarian situation prevailing in Iraq.

Some members of the Council welcomed the emergency humanitarian plan proposed by the Secretary-General and believed that it represented a good working basis for the elaboration of a draft resolution on the emergency humanitarian situation in Iraq.

After the consultations, the President expressed the views of Council members to the press (see appendix).

During the consultations on 26 March, Council members heard, in connection with the emergency humanitarian plan in Iraq, a Secretariat briefing on necessary adjustments to the oil-for-food programme.

Council members referred to the draft resolution based on the emergency humanitarian plan proposed by the Secretary-General and stated their intention to complete the negotiations as soon as possible.

On 26 and 27 March, the Security Council, at the request of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the League of Arab States, held a public meeting during which 83 delegations spoke, including the 15 members.

In their statements, most speakers, while expressing the hope that the fighting in Iraq would be brief and would cause the least possible loss of life, emphasized the need to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people.

On 28 March, Council members, after several expert meetings, unanimously adopted resolution 1472 (2003) authorizing, on an interim and exceptional basis, technical and temporary adjustments to the oil-for-food programme with a view to the implementation of the emergency humanitarian plan.

Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 19 March, after hearing a report from the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen, Council members then proceeded to consider the situation during private consultations.

While welcoming the appointment of the new Palestinian Prime Minister, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abou Mazen, the Special Coordinator indicated the three conditions to be met to achieve the common objective of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security: thorough institutional reform of the Palestinian Authority, rapid presentation of the Quartet road map and commitment by the Israeli Government to come to the negotiating table on that basis. He also described the situation along the Blue Line, which he considered stable, and that of the Golan Heights, which he characterized as calm.

After welcoming the appointment of Mr. Abbas to the post of Prime Minister and the desire for reform manifested by the Palestinian Authority, Council members once again urged the two parties, Israel and Palestine, to return to the negotiating table. Several launched an appeal for the rapid issuance of the road map, which was the only way to find a just and durable solution to the crisis. They urged Israel, on the one hand, and Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, on the other, to reinforce

the calm atmosphere which was becoming established along the Blue Line and on the Golan Heights.

Timor-Leste

On 10 March, the Council held a public meeting on Timor-Leste.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, introduced the special report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/243).

He described the situation of instability and insecurity prevailing in the country, which was a cause of grave concern. He then suggested realistic and prudent adjustments to the contingents of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), in order to preserve the progress made by the international community in that country.

The Secretary-General had proposed, inter alia, a simplified, two-phase plan for the military component's deployment until May 2004, and the strengthening of the operational capacity of the UNMISET police, in order to confront civil disturbances and improve the ability of the Timor-Leste police to contain such disturbances.

Council members underlined the need to support the mandate entrusted to UNMISET. Although they differed on the procedure for the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations, they recognized the need to focus those efforts on the strengthening of the capacity of the Timor-Leste police, to enable them to take on their role in the near future.

To follow up on the recommendations made by the Secretary-General, on Friday, 4 April 2003, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1473 (2003) adjusting the composition and troop strength of the military component and the UNMISET police for 2003 and requesting the Secretary-General to submit for its approval by 20 May 2003 a detailed military strategy for the revised schedule.

Europe

Cyprus

On 4 March, the Council heard the Secretary-General, who had returned from a mission to the region (Turkey, Greece and Cyprus). He expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of his mission and the agreement of the two Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to meet him again at The Hague on 10 March. He indicated that he had requested them to submit the revised Comprehensive Peace Agreement to a separate referendum.

Council members gave due praise to the Secretary-General for the efforts he had made with a view to finding a comprehensive political solution to the crisis. They reiterated their support for the revised comprehensive settlement plan as a unique basis for further negotiations (resolution 1475 (2003) of 14 April 2003).

Other matters

Thematic issues

On 18 March, the Security Council held a workshop on the theme "Proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities: threats to peace and security in West Africa".

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of nine countries of the subregion, the Secretary-General, the representatives of the African Union and of the Chairman-in-Office of ECOWAS, the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and the Director of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance on Security and Development (PCASED)-Bamako took part in this workshop.

On completion of the workshop, the members of the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1467 (2003) with an annex containing a declaration making recommendations on combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and mercenary activities in West Africa.

Letter dated 6 March 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Security Council, after considering the letter dated 6 March 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2003/290), regarding nominations for the posts of ad litem judge at the International Tribunal for Rwanda, decided on 28 March to postpone until 15 April 2003 the deadline for submission of those nominations. The Secretary-General was so informed (see S/2003/382).

Appendix

Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in March 2003

The situation in Guinea-Bissau (5 March)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing by David Stephen, Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

Council members expressed their concern at the political instability in the country. They appealed to the Government to ensure that the forthcoming legislative elections were conducted in a transparent, fair and credible manner. They stressed the need to elect the President and Vice-President of the Supreme Court before these elections, which could be a concrete manifestation of the Government's commitment to free and fair elections, to the rule of law and to the respect of human rights. They also called on the international community to stand ready to send observers and to provide funding for these elections. They called on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to become more strongly involved in the solution of the problems faced by Guinea-Bissau.

Council members further expressed their concern at the serious economic situation in the country. They called on the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary steps to facilitate a constructive dialogue with the international community and to fully endorse the partnership approach defined by the ad hoc advisory group of the Economic and Social Council on Guinea-Bissau.

Council members welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to assist Guinea-Bissau in holding free and transparent elections. They appealed to the donor community to contribute financially to the implementation of the political and economic process in the country.

Council members expressed their concern at the proliferation of small arms in Guinea-Bissau and asked the Government to take appropriate steps to put an end to it.

Council members were also concerned by information regarding the human rights situation in Guinea-Bissau. They emphasized the importance of fully respecting freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Finally, Council members expressed their strong support to the Representative of the Secretary-General and to the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

The situation in Liberia (5 March)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing from the Secretary-General's Representative in Monrovia, Abou Moussa. They were deeply concerned at the humanitarian situation in Liberia and called on the Government and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) to stop abuses of human rights and to give unrestricted access to humanitarian organizations.

Council members welcomed the conclusions of the international contact group on Liberia held on 28 February.

Council members encouraged Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to pursue efforts to facilitate the negotiation of a ceasefire, especially the suggestion of a meeting in Mali on 10 March under the chairmanship of Mr. Amadou Toumany Touré, ECOWAS mediator. They urged the Government of Liberia and LURD to participate constructively.

Council members called on all States in the region to refrain from any interference in the affairs of their neighbours, particularly through the movement of arms or mercenaries.

Council members recalled the necessity of carrying out a mission to the subregion during the first half of 2003.

Côte d'Ivoire (14 March)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Albert Tevoedjre, on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the activities of the committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. They expressed their full support for the Special Representative and the monitoring committee.

Council members welcomed the first meeting of the Government of National Reconciliation. They called on all the parties to participate in subsequent meetings. They thanked the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which, under the chairmanship of Ghana, had played an important role in that regard. They called again on all parties to implement fully and in good faith the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. They urged the new Government to draw up a timetable for the implementation of that Agreement.

Council members were informed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, of the findings of the assessment mission he had conducted in Côte d'Ivoire from 24 February to 5 March. They looked forward to receiving the report the Secretary-General would submit on the basis of the Assistant Secretary-General's conclusions as soon as possible.

Council members were informed by France of the activities of its troops. They expressed their full support for the efforts of ECOWAS forces and French troops, as provided for by resolution 1464 (2003), with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. They called on Member States to provide adequate financial and logistical support for the ECOWAS forces.

Council members noted with satisfaction the decision by ECOWAS to ensure the safety of all members of the Government of National Reconciliation and stressed the need urgently to take all necessary steps to that end.

Council members condemned the renewal of fighting in the west of the country and the events that had transpired, in particular in Bangolo. They expressed concern at the fact that the fighting had essentially opposed Liberian combatants. They called on the parties to desist from the use of children in the conflict.

Council members recalled the importance for the parties of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire. They expressed deep concern at the deplorable humanitarian situation and called on all parties, in particular in the west, to allow relief agencies unimpeded access to civilian populations.

Central African Republic (20 March)

The members of the Security Council heard a report by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, on the situation in the Central African Republic.

Council members strongly condemned the coup d'état on 15 March and the ensuing violence and pillaging. They called for calm and respect for persons and property.

Council members invited all the leaders of the Central African Republic to begin a genuine and all-inclusive political dialogue promptly, in order to restore legality, national cohesion and civil peace and ensure the early restoration of democracy.

Council members reiterated their full support for the action of the Secretary-General's Representative, General Lamine Cissé, as head of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). They renewed their support for the efforts of the Central African Economic Community and Monetary Union (CEMAC) and the African Union and deplored the losses suffered by the regional force.

Iraq (21 March)

The members of the Security Council welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the emergency humanitarian plan in Iraq and decided that they provide a good working basis.

Council members agreed on the need to take appropriate measures promptly to deal with the emergency humanitarian situation prevailing in the country.

The Council members decided that a group of experts should meet on 22 March, at 10 a.m., under the auspices of Germany as Chairman of the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990), to begin discussions with a view to preparing a draft resolution.

Sierra Leone (21 March)

The members of the Security Council considered the situation in Sierra Leone and the situation of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on the basis of the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2003/321 and Corr.1).

Council members welcomed the role played by UNAMSIL in maintaining stability.

Council members agreed that the rate of withdrawal of UNAMSIL should take into account the security conditions and the capacity of the Sierra Leone police and army to maintain them, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General.

Council members invited Member States to make generous contributions for the financing of the reintegration and civilian police training programmes by the United Nations.

Council members reiterated their concern at the destabilizing impact of the conflict in Liberia on the subregion, and on Sierra Leone in particular. They called on the Liberian Government and Liberians United for Reconciliation and

Democracy (LURD) to initiate a direct dialogue with a view to a peaceful settlement of their dispute.

Council members decided to consider a resolution extending the mandate of UNAMSIL for a period of six months, to be adopted the following week.

Council members thanked UNAMSIL, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Kingdom for their peace consolidation efforts in Sierra Leone.

Côte d'Ivoire (28 March)

The members of the Security Council expressed deep concern at the incidents that had occurred at Daloa on 26 March 2003 during the demonstration organized by the "Jeunes Patriotes".

Council members called on the Ivorian authorities to ensure that such incidents did not recur. They stressed that the incidents could potentially inflame passions, hamper the peace process and endanger the lives of innocent people.

Council members reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and French forces to further the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

Council members condemned the recruitment of mercenaries by any of the parties, and they called for a thorough investigation of the violations of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular the massacres.

Council members called on all Ivorian parties to measure up to their responsibilities and to honour their commitments under the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra Agreements.

Council members stressed that neighbouring States should work to prevent the participation of mercenaries, who further destabilized Côte d'Ivoire.

Council members reiterated their support to Prime Minister Diarra, his new Government, the Follow-up Committee and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.